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HEAD-QUARTERS,

COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Atlanta, Ga., July 28, 1863.

To the Justices of the Inferior Court of

County, Ga.

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith send you a printed copy of the Governor's Order to me, July 24th, 1863, directing the further distribution of Salt to the families of our noble and gallant soldiers.

Please send me a correct certified list of the names of all the persons entitled to salt residing in your county, with the amount of money required. I will then order the salt shipped to your address, as you may designate, to be distributed strictly in accordance with the directions of the Governor.

Very respectfully,

JARED I. WHITAKER,
Commissary General.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MILLEDGEVILLE, July 24, 1863.

Col. Jared I. Whitaker, Commissary General:

COLONEL.—Information reaches me from various parts of the State, that the families of our gallant soldiers are again in great need of Salt, and must soon suffer if their necessities are not relieved. While those who are their natural protectors are required to leave them, and confront the enemy on the battlefield, those who remain at home, and especially those in authority, must do all in their power to relieve their wants, and prevent distress for the necessities of life. Considering the State as the natural guardian of the helpless families of absent soldiers, I have, as its Executive, done all in my power to contribute to their comfort. I have, however, found the difficulties in getting salt into the State, on account of our limited means of transportation, and its frequent interruption by the raids of the enemy, to be very great. But, after much effort, I have succeeded in importing from Virginia about twenty thousand bushels, within the last three months which I see, from your reports, you now have in store. The late burning of the railroad bridges by the enemy, has seriously interrupted the transportation between Georgia and Saltville, Virginia.

The quantity on hand will not supply all; but it will, if distributed, relieve a great many, and the others can have assistance when more can be shipped to the State from

the works, which may be done soon, if the enemy does not again interrupt the railroads in East Tennessee.

My intention is, so soon as it can be had, to make a distribution of one half bushel of twenty-five pounds to the family of each officer and soldier in State or Confederate service from Georgia. You will, therefore, give notice immediately to the Justices of the Inferior Courts of the respective counties of this State, that they are required, without delay, to ascertain and report to you the name of each soldier's widow, each soldier's wife, each widow having a son, or sons, in service, each other family dependent upon the labor of a soldier in service for support, and of each disabled soldier, who has been discharged on account of wounds, or other disability, in their respective counties. So soon as the Justices of each county have made their reports, and have sent you four dollars for each family reported, you will furnish them, to be shipped at the expense of the county, to such railroad depot in the State as they may designate, one half bushel of salt of twenty-five pounds, for each soldier's family, so reported, in the county.

On account of the great increase in the cost of everything used in the manufacture of salt, including the increased cost and difficulties of transportation, and, on account of the farther fact, that the bushel of fifty pounds at the works, will lose several pounds by drippage, and other waste, before it reaches the consumer, the half bushel of twenty five pounds cannot be delivered to the consumer for a less sum than that above mentioned.

Last year I adopted the rule of deducting from the half bushel, the wastage from the place of manufacture to place of delivery.—But I found that there was much complaint that the Courts, in distributing, did not always give each family an equal quantity. I think it best, therefore, to fix the price at such sum as will enable the State to lose the wastage, and deliver to each family the full half bushel of twenty-five pounds. This will secure equality. As most of the dripping and wastage will have occurred before the

salt leaves the store, you will carefully weigh it when shipped to each county, so that you can detect any unfairness, should any be attempted in any county.

The Court may pay you for the salt out of the relief fund of the County, and will deliver to each family, which is entitled to relief, under the act known as the act for the relief of indigent soldiers' families, one half bushel of twenty-five pounds, as part of the relief due each, and will sell to each family of a soldier, residing in the County, not entitled to relief under said act, one half bushel of twenty five pounds, for four dollars and the actual cost of freight, from the place of shipment to the place of delivery.

Each Court will be required to return the empty sacks to you, before another distribution will be made to the County.

As you have heretofore done, you will supply each County in the order in which it makes its report to you, and pays the money. As all cannot be supplied at once, and many cannot even be supplied out of the quantity now on hand, but must wait till more can be imported, and as I am unwilling to discriminate among the Counties, I know of no fairer rule, that can be made practicable, than the rule, "first come, first served."—Hence I adopt it.

The reports can soon be made, if the Courts in the respective Counties will, at an early day, call to their assistance the Justices of the Peace, and a few other intelligent citizens, from each militia district, in each County.

That the people may have notice of this order, and may hold the Justices of the Inferior Courts responsible in case of neglect of duty, you will publish it and send a copy immediately, to the Clerk of the Superior Court, in each County, with request that he post it up in a conspicuous place, on the Court House door, or other most public place in the County.

Tendering you my thanks, for the prompt and efficient manner in which you have constantly discharged the duties of your responsible position,

I am, very respectfully,

JOSEPH E. BROWN.

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